

Gator Gazette

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND • 917th WING, BARKSDALE AFB, LA • APRIL 2002



Air Force -
Celebrates B-52 50th Anniversary

Chief Master Sgt. Larry Payne -
Distinguished Flying Cross

917th Education & Training -
LDP Training Office of the Year

917th Maintenance Squadron: Member places "Let's Roll" decal on B-52

Safety is key to mission success

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Brig. Gen. Jack C. Ihle
Commander
917th Wing

“At no time should safety ever be an after-thought—it must always be the key ingredient in every operation.”

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for a great effort on our safety down day during the March unit training assembly.

The Air Force had experienced a sharp increase in our mishap rate, both flying and ground, and it was indeed time to step back and assess our processes from a safety perspective.

Although our operations tempo is high and we are at war, we must continue to remind everyone not to overextend and do something unsafe.

There were excellent discussions on standard safety practices, use of operational risk management, checklist discipline, and following tech order guidance. At no time should safety ever be an after-thought—it must always be the key ingredient in every operation, and risk management continues to be central to our success, both on and off duty. Let's make safety a way of life to have the resources to do the nation's business.

I would like to encourage all of you to bring your family out to our annual Family Day, Saturday, April 6. It's a great opportunity to show them where you work, what you do, and how you contribute to the overall mission of the 917th Wing and the Air Force. And even more important—come out and have fun.

Family members: Please accept my sincere gratitude for the support, dedication and sacrifice you make for our Reserve members. You are an indispensable and crucial member of the the Air Force Reserve and the 917th Wing.

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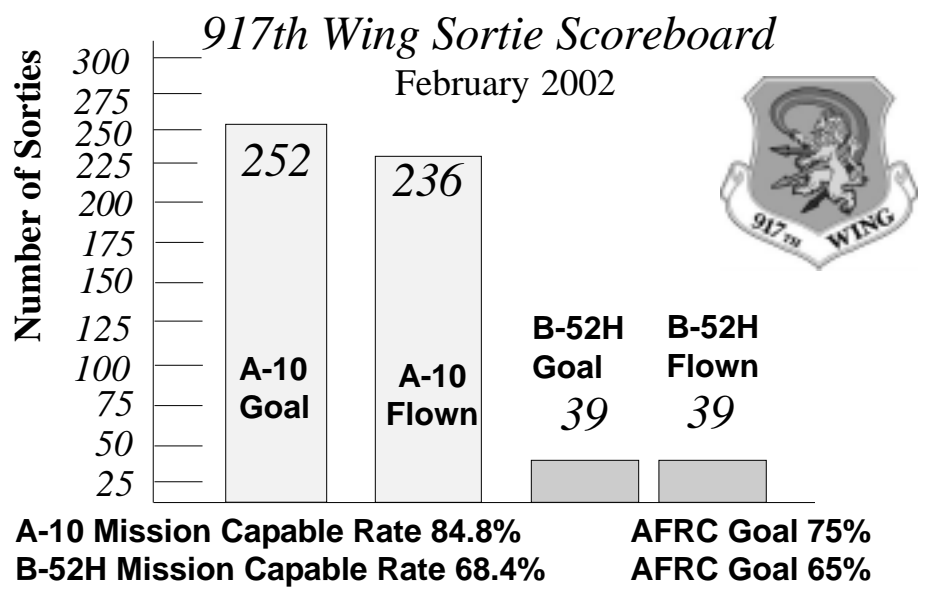
Wing training schedule, services



DONT FORGET!

It's time to spring forward. At 2 a.m., April 7, set your clocks up one hour!

(This is the Sunday morning of the April UTA)



Gator Gazette

917th Wing
Office of Public Affairs
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Front Cover Photo:

Staff Sgt. Brian McDaniel, 917th Maintenance Squadron aircraft structural repair mechanic, presses wrinkles out of the "Let's Roll" decal placed on the B-52 Feb. 15. The decal is a memorial to those who lost their lives Sept. 11. The decal will remain in place until Sept. 12, 2003. (Photo by Master Sgt. Jessica D'Aurizio)

917th Wing Family Day

Saturday, April 6

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.



Music by "The Knarley Boys"
Karaoke will also be available.

Displays and Demos

First Aid Station/Medical Display

McGruff

Family Readiness

Bossier Sheriff Dept.'s DARE jeep

Martial Arts Demo by Tech. Sgt.

Mike, 93rd Bomb Squadron

Star Planetarium's Sunspot Telescope

Air Force Sergeant's Association

Sci-port

Chief Master Sgt. Cheryl Denson

Scholarship Fund

AAFES display

Train rides will be available for children free-of-charge.

Games

Bingo

Cake Walk

Dunking Booth

Jailhouse

Putt-Putt

Spacewalk

Face-Painting

Bean Bag Toss

Basketball



Food

Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served. Cost is \$10 for officers and their families and \$5 for enlisted members and their families.

Contact your squadron first sergeant for tickets and more information.

917th Wing Commander's Cup Golf Tournament

The tournament, scheduled for April 6, is a shotgun start, four-person scramble. Tee-off time is 1 p.m. All golfers must be on their designated holes at this time.

The tournament is at the Barksdale AFB golf course. Following the tournament, a dinner will be served at the clubhouse with prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and last places, longest drive, closest to the pin and most

accurate drive. Door prizes will also be given at this time.

Cost is \$23 plus green fees.

Green fees and cart prices have increased at the golf course to: E 1-4/\$7, E 5-7/\$10, E8 and up/\$14, and civilian/\$21.

For more information, contact 1st Lt. Warren Crabtree at 456-7192,

Master Sgt. Greg Steele at 456-8517, or Master Sgt. Jessica D'Aurizio at 456-8145.



In the news.....

Long-term care insurance available soon

Reservists concerned with the rising cost of long-term care required because of an illness, accident or the normal aging process are now eligible to apply for added protection.

Benefits include reimbursement up to the limits in each policy for the expenses of home care, home health care, assisted living facilities, and adult day care resulting from chronic mental or physical conditions.

Early enrollment is available March 25 to May 15, but the actual open season starts July 1 and continues through Dec. 31. Parents, parents-in-law and stepparents of employees and members of the uniformed services (but not of retirees) are eligible to apply.

Interested individuals can sign up online at the Long Term Care Insurance for the Federal Family Web site or may call (800) 582-3337 to receive information about the plan.

New changes in effect for enlisted PME

A complete review of enlisted professional military education has brought about some new policy changes, effective immediately.

One change is the retainability requirement to attend PME. The 12-month requirement was reduced to six months.

The policy of disenrolling students who exceed weight and body fat standards has been discontinued. Verification of weight and body fat takes place no earlier than 30 days prior to the class start date and no longer takes place upon arrival to a course.

If PME is declined, noncommissioned officers must retire upon reaching 20 years of service or on the first day of the seventh month following their declination, whichever is later. People who decline PME are ineligible for promotion and reenlistment. They are also ineligible to participate in the high-year-tenure extension program.

Correction necessary in March issue

The article at the top of page 8 of the March Gator Gazette concerning getting promoted contained an error. The time in grade necessary to promote to staff sergeant changed as of August 2001 from three to four years. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

Chemical Warfare gear must stay put

Anyone with chemical warfare gear and a gas mask must keep the gear in their duty section. Gear must not leave the base for any reason. It must also be cleaned and the mask inspected every six months by the person to whom the gear is assigned. If you have any questions, please contact Senior Master Sgt. Steve Lindberg at 456-7177.

Gear must be resealed at airports

Due to increased airport security procedures being implemented throughout the United States, Air Force personnel have reported that inspectors have been opening the vacuum packed bags of the chemical protective overgarment/battle dress overgarment stored in the C-1 bags during the inspection process.

If requested to open the bag, ensure it is opened carefully at

one end. Use care when opening the barrier bag and do not damage any of the written information on the barrier bag. If the suit is removed from the barrier bag, ensure that it is not exposed to any petroleum, oil or lubricant products, or possible contaminants. The bag can be re-sealed with high quality adhesive tape, provided the overgarment is not damaged, and it will maintain its original shelf life.

Once at the final destination or nearest military post, vacuum pack the suit and barrier bag in a clear bag at the earliest convenience to meet the Table 5-1 corrective action requirement.

For more information, contact Senior Master Sergeant Steve Lindberg at 456-7177.

Bush wants money, people for Reserve

The president's proposed defense budget for next year seeks \$3.466 billion in funding and an end strength of 75,600 reservists for Air Force Reserve Command.

The fiscal year 2003 request, which covers the fiscal year starting Oct. 1, 2002, asks for 900 more reservists and \$249.6 million more than the budget approved by Congress for FY '02.

The president's budget proposal must pass both houses of Congress and be signed by the president before becoming law.

Volunteer to 'Paint Your Heart Out'

Paint Your Heart Out will be May 18 this year. A group of volunteers from the wing will paint the house of an elderly local resident. The city furnishes all needed materials, and the house is prepped prior to Wing members' arrival. A cookout follows. Each painter must be at least 18 years of age. Call Senior Master Sgt. Dan Swannon at 456-8110 or Master Sgt. Pat Roberson at 456-8066 for more details.

Benefits, quality workplace vital to national defense

Air Force and Department of Defense officials told members of the Senate Armed Services Committee Feb. 13 that recruiting, training and quality-of-life incentives are key to ensuring the security of the United States.

The president's 4.5 percent pay raise--the highest in 20 years --and "a robust and targeted bonus program" will help the Air Force compete with the private sector in both attracting and retaining quality airmen.

The president's budget also increases funding for family support centers by 8.5 percent or \$17 million.

In need--call a Chaplain

The 917th Wing Chaplain's Office is located in Bldg. 6803, Rm. 239. They may be reached by phone at 456-9179 during the unit training assembly, or at (985) 517-0955 (Chaplain Willis) or (713) 502-1124 (Chaplain DeVaul) throughout the month.

Advisory Council wants suggestions

The Unit Advisory Council has a link on the main 917th Wing intranet site for personnel to make suggestions on how to improve work environments and quality of life issues within the Wing. Visit the site and let your ideas be known.

Reservists join 917th Wing

Twelve new reservists joined the 917th Wing. They will attend the newcomers' briefing and then join their respective squadrons.

917th Security Forces Squadron

Senior Airman Michael T. Devillier,
Eros, La.
Staff Sgt. Gary A. Guthrie, Troup, Texas

917th Medical Squadron

Maj. Karen B. Chin, Marshall, Texas
Staff Sgt. Joyce E. Hawley, Gladewater,
Texas

917th Logistics Support Squadron

Airman 1st Class Jennifer L. Blackburn,
Bossier City, La.
Senior Airman Rodney P. Whalen,
Shreveport, La.
Staff Sgt. Tracy L. Williams, Shreveport,
La.

917th Maintenance Squadron

Senior Airman John R. Butterfield,
Bossier City, La.

47th Fighter Squadron

Tech Sgt. William J. Hannah,
Shreveport, La.
Master Sgt. James W. Metz, Bossier
City, La.
Tech Sgt. Richard A. Williams, Jr.,
Haughton, La.

917th Civil Engineer Squadron

Master Sgt. Martin L. Wright,
Shreveport, La.



Airman of the Quarter
Senior Airman Nathaniel
Freeman
93rd Bomb Squadron



NCO of the Quarter
Tech. Sgt. Kirk Stewart
47th Fighter Squadron



**Senior Master Sergeant of
the Year**
Senior Master Sgt. Steve Vogle
93rd Bomb Squadron



First Sergeant of the Year
Senior Master Sgt. Dale Earley
**917th Logistics Support
Squadron**

Air Force Aid Society helps Reservists who are in need

The Air Force Aid Society, Inc. is the official charity of the United States Air Force. Its three-pronged charter promotes the Air Force mission by providing worldwide emergency assistance to members and their families, sponsoring educational assistance programs, and offering a variety of base community enhancement programs that impact member/family welfare.

In 2001, total direct assistance to Air Force members and families totaled over

\$25 million, helping over 32,000 people. Over \$370,000 of that was given to Reserve and Guard members.

"The Air Force Aid Society has been superb in its support to our members, particularly during this mobilization," said Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard, III, commander, Air Force Reserve Command. "We have several cases, where without their intervention, our members would have been severely "taxed" financially."

The Air Force anticipates assistance to the Reserve will increase as more members are activated to support the Air Force mission, and encourage them to seek assistance when genuine need exists.

For more information on the Air Force Aid Society, contact them by phone at (703) 607-3064 commercial or DSN 327-3064, or at the AFAS Web site <http://www.afas.org>.

(Information for this article was obtained from the AFAS fact sheet.)



COURTESY PHOTO

Chief Master Sgt. Larry Payne, 917th Maintenance Squadron first sergeant (then Airman 1st Class Payne, 6th Special Operations Squadron weapons specialist), stands next to the guns he operated on a KC-119G Model aircraft during his tour in Vietnam.

**Story by Senior Airman Sherri Savant
Wing Public Affairs**

The entire battle lasted several hours, but the heaviest of the fighting lasted only 45 minutes. In that time, 26,000 rounds of ammunition were expended, the enemy was defeated, and countless American soldiers' lives were saved.

That mission earned Chief Master Sgt. Larry Payne, 917th Maintenance Squadron first sergeant, and three others the Distinguished Flying Cross, an award given to those set apart by their extraordinary heroic actions.

"It was the first time I felt like somebody actually appreciated what I did in Vietnam," said Payne. "It meant a lot to me for Col. James James (his commander at the time) to present the Distinguished Flying Cross to me, and for him to say, 'Thank you for putting your life on the line for me more than once.'"

It was a hot June day in 1971, just before the monsoon season. Payne, then a gunner on a KC-119G aircraft, and his crewmembers were sent out to protect a convoy of ammunition that was being transported through the Mekong Delta.

"We were briefed by intelligence that we (Americans) were moving munitions," said Payne. "We then heard that Bien Hoa (an Army base located just a few clicks away from Saigon, Vietnam) was under attack, so we had to leave the convoy. We went from flying a safe line of 6,000 feet to flying at a working altitude of 1,500 feet."

"Upon our arrival at Bien Hoa, we could see heavy ground attacks occurring," Payne said, his face intense. "I saw a mortar fired by the enemy. I watched it arc up and land in one of our ammunition bunkers."

The mortar caused the munitions to explode causing panic in the camp, according to Payne. "Gunfire was coming from both sides," said Payne. "We were called in and started taking small arms fire from the jungle line. Then the enemy attacked in mass running across an open field."

"There must have been several hundred," said Payne. "We'd fire and watch the enemy fall. We thought we had them, but they

It takes 'Payne



Payne drills a hole into the roof of the three-room school April 2, 1971. He was then a first sergeant with the 917th Maintenance Squadron and the 908th Civil Engineer Squadron from

would get up and start running again. They finally fell and did not get back up. We stayed and provided mortar and rocket suppression for a couple more hours." The last enemy death count he had was 167.

Payne's military experience began at 19 years of age, while attending college on a basketball scholarship at Waylon Baptist College, Plainview, Texas.

"I got tired of school," said Payne. "I thought I wanted to be a Marine, but...the recruiter was eating his lunch and wouldn't open the door." He got a similar response from the Army.

"I went to the Air Force Recruiting Office last," said Payne. "The recruiter was also eating lunch, but he let me in."

Payne started basic training at Amarillo, Texas, but halfway through in-processing the base closed. He then went to Lackland AFB, Texas, completed basic training, then attended weapons specialists technical school in Denver, Colo.

Payne then went to England AFB, La., where he volunteered for gun-ship duty in Vietnam.

e' to be a hero



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN SHANNON COLLINS

2001, in El Porvenir, Guatemala. Payne assisted the 917th Civil
Maxwell AFB, Ala., in building a new school.

"I volunteered for Vietnam," said Payne. "No one forced me to go. When the guns were fired, I knew other lives depended on me keeping those guns firing. There was not a whole lot of time to think of dying. There was not a lot of time to think about killing either."

After flying more than 100 combat missions in Vietnam, he participated in a mission that earned him the Distinguished Flying Cross. Countless American soldiers, who were in imminent danger of losing their lives, were saved that day, according to Payne. "The Viet Cong was on the move," said Payne. "If we hadn't been there to protect them, our guys would have died, without a doubt."

Payne returned from Vietnam February 1972, and reported to Eglin AFB, Fla., the following month. Later that month, James, his commander in Vietnam while attached to the 6th Special Operations Squadron, took command at Eglin.

"He wrote the citation and presented the Distinguished Flying Cross to me in early May," said Payne.



COURTESY PHOTO

Payne (bottom row, second from left) poses for a picture with his crew while in Vietnam.

"I volunteered for Vietnam. No one forced me to go. When the guns were fired, I knew other lives depended on me keeping those guns firing."

Chief Master Sgt. Larry Payne
917th Maintenance Squadron

While stationed at Eglin AFB, he tested new munitions on 12 different aircraft, wrote checklists for a tank killer and the 2000-pound smart bomb used today.

"We helped develop the release systems on prototypes of the first unmanned aircraft being used today as spy planes," said Payne. After being discharged from the Air Force in 1972, he worked in several different jobs for the next few years. Then in 1982, he became a Texas state trooper.

"It was then that I decided I still wanted to be in the Air Force," said Payne.

He rejoined the 917th Wing at Barksdale in 1982 as a weapons specialist. In 1993, he became the Senior Enlisted Advisor, and then in 1998 returned to maintenance as a first sergeant, and remains there today.

"Chief Payne has meant a great deal to this wing," said Chief Master Sgt. Jack Skaggs, 917th Wing command chief master sergeant. "He has been a superb person to know for his leadership, mentorship, as a confidant, and as a six-foot-four, 240 pound Texas state trooper, he ain't a bad guy to have around whether in uniform or not. It is an honor to rub shoulders with a Distinguished Flying Cross recipient, to work with him, and to be his friend. Chief Payne is truly an American hero!"

"I'm now a first sergeant and worry about my folks going away to combat, there is so much stress," said Payne. "I know a lot of the time when the mission is first, safety goes out the window. I wish I could be with them to ensure they keep their head in the game."

Build em', Load em' and Drop em'

**By Master Sgt. Greg, the loader
93rd Bomb Squadron**

The green, Florida landscape didn't resemble the barren, rugged mountains of Afghanistan, but the goal to put bombs on target was the same.

In February, the 93rd Bomb Squadron participated in an Air to Ground Weapon System Evaluation Program in which Joint Direct Attack Munitions were dropped on the test range at Eglin AFB, Fla.

The result was all seven JDAM impacting within six feet of the target. Impacting within fifty feet of the target is considered acceptable.

"Units responsible for the employment of these weapons in combat were the obvious choice to use in the testing of these systems," said Maj. Doogie, 93 BS radar navigator. "The 93rd was excited to be a part of this test. We felt like it would give us an opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge gained in Operation Enduring Freedom."

During Operation Enduring Freedom, the 93 BS dropped approximately 1000 JDAMs on targets in Afghanistan. The precision bombing provided by the global positioning system of the weapon enabled the B-52 to take a role for the first time as close-air-support for allied ground troops during combat offensives.

Ten weapons were allocated to the 93 BS for this test and all were built and tested by members of the 917th Maintenance Squadron Munitions Flight, which now handles all JDAM bomb build-ups for the 49th Test Squadron at Barksdale.

"We were more comfortable with this operation due to the fact that we had plenty of experience with the JDAM system," said Master Sgt. Darold Fish, 917 MXS production superintendent. "We have spent many hours supporting other units on base (i.e. 2nd



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. GREG

Maj. Al, B-52 instructor radar navigator, and Maj. Bruce, B-52 radar navigator, perform pre-flight inspection of a JDAM prior to aircraft launch.

Munitions, 49th Test Squadron) with real world and test operation of this weapon system. Due to the highly skilled and dedicated personnel in the munitions area, we were able to ensure a 100 percent function."

The unit's first experience with JDAMs came in Nov 2000, when the 93 BS, along with 2 BW, participated in a JDAM Lot Acceptance Test. The 93rd dropped two weapons on the test range at Eglin and both impacted well within the acceptable limits. Now B-52s are using these same weapons systems in combat.

Education, Training Office receives award

**Story By Senior Airman Sherri Savant
Wing Public Affairs**

The Leadership Development Program is a mid-level course geared toward Reserve staff and technical sergeants. The LDP is a forum for those who attend to get a better understanding of what their roles and responsibilities are as a noncommissioned officer, Master Sgt. Pat Roberson, chief of Reserve training said.

"This is an opportunity for them to gain some type of professional military education," said Roberson. "The class also counts as two credit hours toward their Community College of the Air Force degree."

Air Force Reserve Command named the 917th Wing Education and Training Office LDP Training Office of the Year 2002. Brig. Gen. Jack C. Ihle, Wing commander, was named LDP Commander of the Year 2002.

"This award gives us the greatest satisfaction," said Roberson. "We feel

recognized for the work we do. Whether it's getting instruction booklets together or making name tags for attendees in upcoming classes, everyone in our office plays a part."

"I am very proud of Master Sgt. Roberson and our training section that head up this program," said Ihle. "This is a well-deserved award for all of their hard work."

The winning education and training office is awarded by a vote of the students and facilitators, according to Roberson. "The voting from the students comes from the critiques that AFRC receives during the year," said Roberson. "The facilitators go back to their chief at Air Force Reserve Headquarters and fill out a written report of how things go, if they get all the materials they need for the class and so forth."

The students critique the Wing on the quality of classroom facilities and billeting provided to them, Roberson said. The

students' ability to get on base (because of increased security since Sept. 11) and the support the Education and Training Office gives through orders preparation and billeting arrangements, for example, are also factors.

"We send the students a welcome package," said Roberson. "We try to plan ahead, so the students have to focus on only one thing—getting through the class. The students need to know what they learn here can be taken back and used in their work areas."

The 10-day class is held in the Base Education Center on the third floor. Class is held Wednesday through Sunday, and graduation is held on the Sunday of the main unit training assembly. Upcoming class dates are as follows: June 26-30 (Phase I) and July 10-14 (Phase II) for Class '02-A; Sept. 25-29 (Phase I) and Oct. 2-6 (Phase II). For more information, contact Master Sgt. Pat Roberson in Wing Education and Training at 456-8066.

B-52 celebrates 50 years in flight

**By Senior Airman Sherri Savant
Wing Public Affairs**

The Air Force celebrates the 50th anniversary of the first flight of the B-52 Stratofortress April 15.

It stands 40 feet high and has a wingspan of 185 feet. While flying at speeds exceeding 600 miles per hour, it remains the primary manned strategic bomber force for the United States.

"I'm extremely impressed with the reliability and maintainability of the B-52," said Maj. "Flex", 93rd Bomb Squadron flight commander. "I saw first hand during the recent deployment to the forward operating area just how lethal this aircraft is." The mission in Afghanistan showed the overall capabilities of the B-52.

The B-52 had three primary force objectives at the time of its production, which were: (1) to deter war, (2) resolve conflicts on terms favorable to the United States, and (3) maintain a high state of readiness at a reasonable cost.

The history of the B-52 Stratofortress dates back to early 1946 when the Air Force set up basic requirements for the bomber. The first of the two Stratofortress prototypes emerged from the Seattle factory Nov. 29, 1951, followed by the second March 1952. The YB-52 prototype first flew on April 15, 1952.

The B-52 was originally designed to deliver nuclear weapons deep inside Soviet Union territory. Its mission changed 10 years later, when 27 B-52Fs from Andersen AFB, Guam, hit Viet Cong strongholds in South Vietnam June 18, 1965.

By year's end, B-52 aircrews had flown more than 1,500 Arc Light sorties in South Vietnam, raining tons of bombs on enemy troop concentrations, bases and supply dumps. Laotian raids followed in December 1965, with raids to North Vietnam added in April 1966.

Truong Nhu Tang, former member of the Viet Cong, described the horror of the B-52 raids in his 1985 book, "A Viet Cong Memoir." "The first few times I experienced a B-52 attack it seemed, as I strained to press myself into the bunker floor, that I had been caught in the Apocalypse," he wrote. "The terror was complete. One lost control of bodily

functions as the mind screamed incomprehensible orders to get out."

B-52 raids were instrumental in ending the war, according to Lt. Col. William Jankowski, 917th Operations Support Squadron commander. In 1972, a Linebacker II mission directly contributed to Vietnam's decision to go the bargaining table in an effort to stop the war, Jankowski said.

During Linebacker II, which lasted from Dec. 18-29, more than 700 sorties delivered 150,000 tons of bombs, destroying or damaging 1,600 structures, including rail targets, airfields, and 80 percent of North Vietnam's electrical power generating capacity.

The aircraft's flexibility was evident in Operation Desert Storm. During the first early morning raid, Stratofortresses flew 2,500 miles from a forward operating area in the Indian Ocean to pummel forward Iraqi bases and runways. Sometimes skimming the ground at 400 feet, B-52s dropped cluster bombs that paralyzed and destroyed four airfields and highway landing strips.

A few hours later, seven Barksdale aircrews delivered the first conventional air launched cruise missiles fired from a B-52G in combat. The mission, which had bombers launching from and returning to Barksdale, was at the time the longest distance combat mission in history: 35 hours and 14,000 miles.

During Desert Storm, B-52s flew over 1,600 missions and delivered 72,000 weapons, accounting for 29 percent of all U.S. bombs dropped and 38 percent of all Air Force bombs.

The B-52 most recently participated in Operation Enduring Freedom, the war on terrorism. In the first three months, the B-52s and other bombers flew more than 23 percent of the total combat missions over Afghanistan. They dropped nearly 7,000 tons of munitions—75 percent of the total tonnage dropped in country, damaging or destroying nearly three-quarters of planned targets.

Fifty years after its inception, the B-52 remains the premier bomber for the Air Force. "As long as the B-52 is around, I believe it will be used in every conflict because of what it can do," said Jankowski. "As of now, there is no aircraft to replace it."

There is a consensus among some 93rd crewmembers on what will be required to make the B-52 last another 50 years. Some mention upgrades in avionics, weapons systems and electronic warfare for it to be able to carry the most modern weapons. No one knows what the future of the 'beast' may hold.

(Information for this article was obtained from articles on the Web site www.af.mil)

B-52 General Characteristics

Primary function: heavy bomber

Contractor: Boeing Military Airplane Co.

Thrust: Each engine up to 17,000 pounds

Length: 159 feet, 4 inches

Height: 40 feet, 8 inches

Wingspan: 185 feet

Speed: 650 miles per hour

Ceiling: 50,000 feet

Weight: approx. 185,000 pounds empty

Maximum takeoff weight: 488,000 pounds

Range: unrefueled 8,800 miles

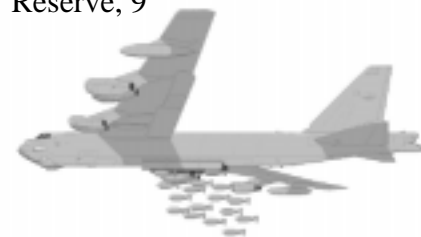
Armament: approx. 70,000 pounds mixed ordnance-- bombs, mines and missiles

Crew: five (aircraft commander, pilot, radar navigator, navigator and electronic warfare officer)

Accommodations: six ejection seats

Unit cost: \$30 million

Inventory: Active force, 85; Reserve, 9



Voices: How do you pick yourself up when you are really down?



Staff Sgt. Nishera Sanders
917th Medical Squadron

"I pray and focus on the things I have. I keep in mind that I could be in a worse condition."



Staff Sgt. Wendie Self
307th RED HORSE Squadron

"I put it in God's hands. It's the only thing to do."



Senior Master Sgt. Elroy Combs
917th Maintenance Squadron

"I take a moment of silence and consider what is important to me."



Senior Airman Jason Howie
47th Fighter Squadron

"I go to the lake and get away from what stresses me."

Good connections at home can be a 'double-edged sword'

By Army Staff Sgt. Kathleen Rhem
American Forces Press Service

Easy access to family members at home has done wonders to improve the morale of deployed service members in recent years, and sometimes it's had the opposite effect.

Problems at home add to the stress on troops — home-front instability, in fact, was the most significant stress factor among service members deployed..., said Maj. Michael Doyle, psychiatrist.

Bernard Rostker, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, said 55 percent of the force is married, 46 percent have children, 6 percent are single parents and 8 percent provide some support to an elderly parent. That adds up to a lot of potential issues and pressure for deployed service members.

Communications with family members at home has never been easier for deployed service members. Troops deployed to Central America in 1998 and early 1999 for Hurricane Mitch relief, for instance, had morale lines set up for free phone calls home. Many units in the Balkans have similar setups. Officials have said nearly every deployed service member now has access to e-mail and the Internet.

"Unparalleled means of communication between family members and

deployed service members is a unique advantage," Rostker said. "But it may also be a unique stressor as service members stay engaged with families."

Stress control consists of commanders and medical personnel working together to reduce the negative impacts of operational stress, Doyle explained. "It's looking for ways to help troops focus on their missions," he said.

The most effective means for leaders to control stress within their units is to get to know their people. "Leaders need to know what's going on, to understand the dynamics in their service members' lives," he said. "That's a tall order, and it's easier said than done."

Troops under stress may react positively or negatively, Army Lt. Col. James N. Jackson explained. From a unit standpoint, positive responses are healthy and include increased perseverance, unit cohesion and dedication to mission, said Jackson.

But, as Rostker explained, "today's military members frequently encounter stressors that actually exceed their ability to deal with in healthy ways."

When that happens, Jackson said, the effects can be misconduct and other unhealthy responses such as substance abuse, insubordination, malingering, depression and battle fatigue."

In Memory.....

The 917th Wing mourns the loss of one of its own. Tech. Sgt. Bradley Allan Cressman, passed away Friday, February 15 in his home. He had just returned home after serving in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Cressman, a B-52 crew chief with the 93rd Bomb Squadron, served in the Air Force and Air Force Reserve for 18 years.

"Cressman was a true asset to his squadron," said Lt. Col. Steve Kirkpatrick, 93rd Bomb Squadron commander. "He was a conscientious worker and always gave 100 percent to the task at hand. Brad will be sorely missed."



917th Wing Training Schedule

April 6-7, 2002

Time	Event	Location
<u>Saturday</u>		
0600	UTA prayer breakfast	Red River Inn Dining
0630-0700	Sign-in	Assigned unit
0700-1400	Immunizations	Base hospital, 1st floor
0700	Wing staff meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
0700	Intro -- all newcomers	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0730	Physical exam	Base hospital
0730-1000	Body fat measurement	Family practice
0730-1430	Eye-glass inserts	Bldg. 4845 (by hospital)
0745	Firearms training	Firing range
0800	Initial Warfare (appointment only)	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 329
0800 & 1300	Chem Warfare Refresher	Hangar 7
0800	Physicals (non-fly)	Base hospital
0900	Anti-terrorism training	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0930 & 1030	Family readiness briefing	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 17
1000	Unit deployment managers	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1000	First sergeants' meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1100-1500	Family Day activities	A-10 Hangar
1300-1800	Golf Tournament	Base Course
1550-1615	Sign-out 1550--WG 1600--LG, MS, CES 1610--MSS	
<u>Sunday</u>		
0630-0700	Sign in	Assigned Unit
0730	Information Management Training	Bldg. 4238, STARBASE
0730	Human Relations	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0745	Firearms training	Firing range
0800-1000	Dental Class 3 profile reviews	Base dental clinic
0800-1300	Eye-glass inserts	Bldg. 4845 (by hospital)
0800	Initial Warfare (appointment only)	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 329
0800	Career advisor training	Bldg. 6815, T-Net
0800	Chem. Warfare Refresher	Hangar 7
0830	Substance Abuse	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0900	Catholic Mass	Base Chapel 2
0900	Unit advisory council	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
0945	EO First Duty Station Part 1	Bldg. 4714, 3rd Floor
1000-1030	Protestant services	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1030	Family readiness briefing	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 17
1230	EOC testing	Bldg. 4314, 3rd floor
1300	Unit safety rep. meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1300	EO First Duty Station Part 2	Bldg. 4714, 3rd Floor
1400	Sexual Orientation Policy trng.	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1430	SORTS meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1550-1615	Sign-out 1550--WG 1600--LG, MS, CES 1610--MSS	

SERVICES

Military Personnel Flight

Bldg. 6803, Room 140, ext. 9205

Saturday

7 - 11 a.m. - Newcomers in-processing.

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. - All customer service functions (open during lunch)

Sunday

7 - 8 a.m. - Closed for training.

8 a.m. - 2 p.m. - All customer service functions (open during lunch)

2:30 - 4 p.m. - Closed for training.

Monday - Friday

7 a.m. - 4 p.m. All service

Friday before the UTA

7 a.m. - 6 p.m. All service

NOTE: Customer Service functions include in & out processing, ID cards, DEERS, DD93s, SGLI, Vehicle Decals, Record Reviews, etc.

Base Billeting

Bldg. 5155, 456-3091/3092

Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week (reservations required).

Chaplain

Bldg. 6803, Room 239, 456-9179

Friday & Saturday - 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Red River Dining Hall

Bldg. 4631

Breakfast - 5:30 - 6:30 a.m.

Lunch MS - 11 - 1 47FS - 11:45

WG - 11 MSS - 11:45 93 BS - 11:15

CES - noon SFS - 12:15

NOTE: You must show ID card, newcomer's letter or DD form 1172.

Family Readiness

Bldg. 4713

Saturday & Sunday - 8 - 11 a.m.

Military drivers license

Military drivers license issue is available on the main UTA in Bldg. 6825, Rm. 240. Issue hours:

Saturday & Sunday noon - 2 p.m.

Lodging

For information on official or space "A" lodging call 1-888-AF-LODGE. Once the automated system answers, key in the first three letters of the base you are trying to reach.

Military Pay

Main UTA Schedule

Sat. 7 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. 1 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Gov. Credit Card Service

Bldg. 6803, Room 203, 456-9546

Mon.-Fri. 6 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Main UTA - 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Saturday only)

Military clothing issue

Wednesday 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Main UTA Saturday 10 a.m. - noon and 1 - 3 p.m.

Know anyone who is looking for a recruiter?

Barksdale AFB, La.

Master Sgt. Joe Menna
Master Sgt. Don Copeland
Tech. Sgt. Gary Johnson
1-800-241-4071

Monroe, La.

318-323-1898

Texarkana, Texas

Staff Sgt. Matt Lucas
903-223-7030

If you are interested in becoming a recruiter, call Chief Master Sgt. Larry Woods, 917th Wing Recruiting at 318-456-9751.

Shreveport, La.

Master Sgt. Ellen Shaheed
318-683-0331

Little Rock AFB, Ark.

Tech. Sgt. TeNeuss Land
501-987-7188

Mesquite/Tyler, Texas

Tech. Sgt. Clark Fitzpatrick
972-681-6384/903-534-8618

Form Flow will soon be a 'thing of the past'

The program Air Force people use to fill out electronic forms on computers has been around since the early 1990s, but it will soon be a thing of the past.

"When we looked at FormFlow technology, we realized it was obsolete," Watkins-Taylor said. "We always knew that we were heading toward something more database-interactive and something more Web-based."

The new format will allow the forms to be smart and interactive. The interaction means the user will not be filling in personal information over and over again.

Building a form such as a staff summary sheet or performance report will be easier because the formatting will be built

in. The user will simply respond to prompts. The system will automatically forward the application to other users for their review and digital signatures. Public key interface technology will assure security by encrypting the signatures.

"The system will be intuitive to users across all functional areas because each area will supply its own needs and rules," Watkins-Taylor said.

The transformation means new training for the people tasked with developing new forms. Officials expect it to take nearly five years to realize the full potential of the conversion. (Information taken from AFRC News Service)

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PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN SHERRI SAVANT

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Maj. Kenneth Honaker, 47th Fighter Squadron maintenance officer, acts as one of the judges at the first Gatorfest Gumbo Cook-Off. Cynthia Dunlap, 47th Fighter Squadron, took first place, and Tech. Sgts. Tom Goerner and John Watson, 917th Maintenance Squadron, took second and third place.

Taylor speaks at Starbase



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN SHERRI SAVANT

Harriet Taylor, civilian educator and wife of Col. Clarence Taylor, 2BW Support Group Commander, recites a poem to a class at STARBASE Louisiana Feb. 19. Taylor shared important historical facts about African-Americans as well as a poem entitled "Sing Me a New Song" in celebration of Black History Month. The students from Caddo Parish's West Shreveport Elementary School participated in the 5-day STARBASE experience.

UTA Schedule

Main

April 6-7
May 4-5
June 8-9
July 13-14
Aug. 3-4
Sept. 7-8
Oct. 5-6
Nov. 2-3
Dec. 7-8

Alternate

April 20-21
May 18-19
No alternate
July 20-21
August 17-18
Sept. 21-22
Oct. 19-20
Nov. 16-17
No alternate

917th Wing
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